BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F

J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

E. COATES, C.S.I.B., A.R.SAN.I.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 5 5

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. (Part-time)	J.H.FAIRWEATHER,M.D.,M.R.C.P.,D.P.H.
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. FOOD INSPECTOR. SHOPS INSPECTOR. CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.	E. COATES, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.H.
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR. FOOD INSPECTOR.	W. GRANGE, C.S.I.B., MEAT AND FOODS CERTIFICATE.
CLERICAL OFFICER.	N. CLEGG.

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P A R T I.

(A) STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

(B) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(C) PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

BY

J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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A. SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of Borough (in acres)...	2,386
Population - Census, 1951	12,062
Estimated Population - Mid 1955	11,940
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1951. ...	3,886
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1955. ...	4,273
Rateable Value	£80,932
Sum represented by a Penny Rate...	£ 332

The principal Industries carried on in the area are Cotton and Rayon Weaving, Cotton Bleaching, Cement Manufacture, Chemical Manufacture, Agricultural and Precision Engineering, Domestic Heater Manufacture, Garment Manufacture and Limestone Quarrying.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate....	80	75	155
Illegitimate..	4	3	7
	84	78	162

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Crude..... 13.6 Adjusted..... 15.3

STILLBIRTHS.			
Legitimate....	1	2	3
Illegitimate..	-	-	-
	1	2	3

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.. 18

DEATHS.	103	112	215

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident Population.

Crude..... 18.0 Adjusted..... 15.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY (under 1 year)

Legitimate....	5	1	6
Illegitimate..	-	-	-

RATE per 1,000 Live Births..... 37

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY (under 4 weeks) - Total 5 (leg. males)

RATE per 1,000 Live Births..... 31

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc..... Nil.

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still)Births. Nil.

BIRTH RATE.

It will be seen that the number of LIVE BIRTHS registered during the year was 162, giving an adjusted Rate of 15.3 per 1,000 of the population, which is an increase of 0.4 per 1,000 on the figure for the previous year (1954).

The trend of this Rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales is shown in the following Table :-

Year.	Clitheroe. Number of Births.			Rate per 1,000	England & Wales Rate per 1,000
	M.	F.	Total		
1946	87	91	178	16.2	19.1
1947	124	116	240	21.9	20.5
1948	108	103	211	17.7	17.9
1949	115	113	228	18.6	16.7
1950	121	113	234	20.4	15.8
1951	80	79	159	14.4	15.5
1952	88	73	161	14.5	15.3
1953	106	85	191	17.2	15.5
1954	79	80	159	14.9	15.2
1955	84	78	162	15.3	15.0
Average - Years 1946-1955				17.1	16.6

STILLBIRTHS.

Three Stillbirths were assigned to the Borough during 1955, an increase of two on the figure for the previous year.

The Table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years :-

Year	Number of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1000 (live & still) Births.	Rate per 1000 population.	
	Leg.	Ill.	Total		Clitheroe.	England & Wales.
1946	6	3	9	48	0.82	0.53
1947	6	-	6	24	0.55	0.50
1948	10	-	10	45	0.84	0.42
1949	2	-	2	9	0.16	0.39
1950	8	-	8	33	0.64	0.37
1951	7	-	7	42	0.58	0.36
1952	4	-	4	24	0.33	0.35
1953	3	-	3	15	0.25	0.35
1954	1	-	1	6	0.08	0.34
1955	3	-	3	18	0.25	0.35
Average- Years 1946-1955					0.45	0.39

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths of Clitheroe residents which occurred during the year was 215, representing an adjusted DEATH RATE of 15.1 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 3.5 per 1,000 on the figure for the previous year.

The Death Rate for the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales :-

Year.	Clitheroe.		England & Wales.
	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
1946	159	14.5	11.5
1947	156	14.2	12.0
1948	179	15.0	10.8
1949	180	14.7	11.7
1950	183	12.6	11.6
1951	184	13.0	12.5
1952	151	10,7	11.3
1953	202	14.3	11.4
1954	166	11.6	11.3
1955	215	15.1	11.7
Average - Years 1946-1955		13.5	11.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Six Infant Deaths (under 1 year) were registered during the year, an increase of two on the previous year. This gives a RATE of 37 per 1,000 live Births.

The following Table gives the Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births for the past ten years compared with the Rate for England and Wales :-

Year.	Clitheroe.	England and Wales.
1946	16	43
1947	25	41
1948	37	34
1949	35	32
1950	21	29.8
1951	38	29.6
1952	25	27.6
1953	10	26.8
1954	25	25.5
1955	37	24.9
Average - 1946-1955	26.9	31.3

OTHER INFANT DEATHS.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... Nil

The following Table shows the causes and sex distribution of Deaths of Clitheroe residents during the year 1955 :-

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes - Certified...	103	112	215
Uncertified.	-	-	-
Diphtheria...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... .	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Other malignant Neoplasms.	11	8	19
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System... .	12	23	35
Coronary Disease, angina.	23	11	34
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease.	17	34	51
Other Diseases of Circulatory System. .	4	3	7
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Other Dis. of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	-	-	-
Gastritis,Enteritis, and Diarrhoea... .	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis..	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations.	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents.	3	4	7
Suicide.	1	2	3
All Other Causes.	14	10	24
Totals.	103	112	215

It will be seen that some 158 of the 215 deaths registered were attributable to three groups of disease,viz. Vascular lesions of Nervous System, Heart Disease and Cancer. There were 86 deaths from Heart Disease, an increase of 28 over the figure for 1954 (58), and from Cancer, 37 deaths as against 29 in 1954.

During the year, 27 deaths occurred in Clitheroe Hospital (chronic sick females). Such deaths are not transferable but are assigned to the Borough area.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Acomprehensive range of Services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, the Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinic (with classes for exercises and relaxation), Child Welfare Clinic, Eye and Aural Clinic, Dental Clinic, Speech Therapy Clinic, and other School Medical Services. Provision is also made for Child Guidance.

During the year all Clinics were transferred from the Castle House to Eastham House, Eshton Terrace, Clitheroe. These new provisions are most desirable and much appreciated as they offer much easier access to mothers and children visiting the Clinics.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the Regional Hospital Board in Blackburn, Accrington, Preston and Burnley. There is also access, where required, to Manchester, Liverpool and other Hospitals.

Provision is made for MATERNITY CASES at Preston Royal Infirmary, Queens Park Hospital, Blackburn, and Bramley Meade, Whalley, and for INFECTIOUS DISEASES at Park Lee Hospital, Blackburn.

A PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE under the auspices of the Trustees of the Clitheroe Nursing Association, with support from the Whalley and District Nursing Association, opened in 1954, is available for patients in the Borough and Rural Districts. The Centre is in charge of a trained Physiotherapist and Assistant and provides for massage, remedial exercises, diothermy, infra-red and sun-ray treatment, etc. Local doctors refer patients to the centre and continuity of treatment is assured without the necessity of travel to more distant centres. This Centre is not part of the National Health Service and so a small charge is made for treatment. The Centre continues to give an excellent service and is greatly appreciated by the townspeople.

The establishment of a DOMICILIARY PYHSIOTHERAPY SERVICE under which treatment could be given to the aged and non-ambulant patients unable to visit the present centre would be of incalculable benefit to the town and district but, unfortunately, monetary and other difficulties exclude any such development at the present time.

The AMBULANCE SERVICE for the town is provided by the Lancashire County Council.

An OLD PEOPLES CLUB, opened in 1954, continues to be a beneficial and popular social centre, much appreciated by the older generation of townspeople.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological and Bacteriological Departments of the BLACKBURN AND EAST LANCASHIRE ROYAL INFIRMARY and the PRESTON ROYAL INFIRMARY take the Public Health Laboratory work in accordance with the Government Scheme officially carried out by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

A sub-Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Spink, Pathologist to the Blackburn Group of Hospitals, was instituted early in 1955 in a suite of rooms at the Clitheroe Hospital, and opens each Wednesday morning.

The local Medical Practitioners are thus able to refer Clitheroe patients for any necessary tests and thus obviate the tiresome travel to the more distant hospital centres.

C. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1955 is shown in the following Table, which includes particulars of cases, other than Tuberculosis, notified to the Authority, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from these diseases. Cases of the non-notifiable minor infectious diseases are not included :-

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified.						Total Deaths	Cases removed to hospital
	Age Periods - years.							
	0-1	1-5	5 - 10	10- 25	25 - 65	65 & over		
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	8	5	-	1	-	-	2
Measles.....	2	33	5	-	-	-	-	-
Wh. Cough.....	3	11	13	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.Pneumonia..	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-
Puer.Pyrexia..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oph.Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals.	5	52	23	-	4	-	5	2

It will be seen from the foregoing Table that 84 cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year, a decrease of 215 cases on the previous year.

There were slight increases in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough but a considerable decrease in Measles - only 40 cases as against 257 in 1954.

All the outbreaks proved to be of a fairly mild type and no deaths resulted.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported in the Borough area during the period under review.

It is pleasing to report that Clitheroe was again free from Diphtheria during 1955. Only one case of this disease has occurred in the town since 1946.

The decrease in Diphtheria cases is common throughout England and Wales and is proof of the efficacy of Diptheria Immunisation. Such a decrease in the incidence of this disease and the low level of mortality tends to give rise to complacency on the part of many parents who believe that Diphtheria is now a thing of the past. It must again be stressed that the one safeguard against the return of epidemics of this disease is the maintenance of a high level of immunisation.

The following Table gives the comparative incidence of Infectious Disease, including Tuberculosis, during the past five years :-

Disease.	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Smallpox...	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	36	55	53	12	14
Measles	60	135	206	257	40
Whooping Cough...	127	53	15	22	27
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis - P.	2	1	1	-	-
do. - NP.	1	-	1	-	-
Infective Encephalitis. ...	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	2	1	1
Acute Pneumonia..	11	7	11	6	1
Dysentery..	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.. ...	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria - all forms	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning...	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	4	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory...	15	4	13	9	3
do. - Other Forms...	6	2	4	2	2
Totals	260	262	307	310	89

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board which administers the general scheme. Close liaison is still maintained between the Board and the local Public Health Department.

All the necessary disinfections following these cases are carried out by our own Department.

The following Table shows the age group incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis notified, and the deaths therefrom in 1955 :-

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respy.		Respiratory		Non-Respry	
Years.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals.	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
	3		2		1		-	

It will be seen that 3 cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during 1955, a decrease of 6 on the 1954 figure.

A second MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY is to be undertaken in the early part of 1956.

The following Table gives the Death Rates for Respiratory Tuberculosis in the Borough, the County of Lancashire, and England and Wales for the years 1945 to 1955 :-

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.		
	Clitheroe.	Lancashire.	England & Wales.
1945	0.46	0.38	0.52
1946	0.37	0.39	0.47
1947	0.18	0.38	0.47
1948	0.25	0.34	0.44
1949	0.16	0.34	0.44
1950	0.16	0.28	0.32
1951	0.17	0.26	0.28
1952	0.17	0.20	0.21
1953	0.17	0.18	0.18
1954	0.08	0.14	0.16
1955	0.08	0.15	0.13

PART II.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

1. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
   (INCLUDING REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL)

2. HOUSING.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

BY

E. COATES, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

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1. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is from upland springs and from a subterranean source by pumping from a borehole. This latter, which was put into operation during the summer, proved a great asset and allayed the fear of shortage which has been experienced during spells of drought over the years. During a summer, when, in most towns, water shortage was a most serious problem, Clitheroe was most fortunate in that the supply was adequate and no restrictions were put into operation.

Schemes for the construction of a new main from the gathering grounds to the town, the sinking of a second borehole, and the provision of chlorination plant, have been sanctioned and work on these new projects will commence in the not far distant future.

With one exception, an old house on the extreme north boundary of the town, all houses have a direct supply from the public mains.

WATER SAMPLING.

During the year, 140 Bacteriological examinations were made with generally satisfactory results. Occasional samples indicated some pollution of animal origin but remedial measures were taken to remedy the contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE .

New house construction called for some extension of water mains and sewers during the period under review.

The new Scheme for the more efficient treatment of the town's sewage, so phased as to meet the requirements of the Borough for many years to come, was still in the hands of the Consultant Engineers at the end of the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There are in the Borough some 15 Pail Closets, 1,280 Waste-water or "Tipper" Closets, and 3,197 Freshwater Closets.

During the year under review, 35 waste-water closets were converted to the freshwater system. The remaining closets of this type should be abolished as soon as possible as a Public Health measure.

A considerable number of these are in properties scheduled in the Slum Clearance Programme which will be put into operation in the near future, thus the number will be reduced in this way. A comprehensive scheme will be called for, however, at a later date and the question of grants to owners will call for consideration.

A scheme for the abolition of the existing obsolete sanitary accommodation at one of the Schools in the Borough and its replacement by a new sanitary annexe is under consideration but this work had not been put in hand at the end of the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

On case of pollution was discovered during the year. The surface drainage from a large residential school discharges into the watercourse in question, and on investigation it was found that a waste-pipe from the main kitchen had been wrongly connected to the surface drainage system thus allowing foul water to gain access to the stream. Remedial measures to rectify this error and obviate the nuisance were carried out forthwith.

REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House and Shop Refuse, etc. (excluding salvage loads) during the year ended 31st. December, 1955 :-

1. House and Shop Refuse removed.....	3,012	loads.
2. Offal removed from Public Abattoir.....	184	"
3. Fish and Vegetable Offal removed.....	253	"
4. Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	54	"
Total.....	3,503	"

There were some 4,772 dustbins in use in the Borough area at the end of 1955. The control of replacement bins is in the hand of the Local Authority under a scheme which has been operated for many years past.

During the greater part of the year dustbins were emptied at intervals of 7 to 10 days. A weekly collection is aimed at but the collection frequency is inevitably extended following holiday periods. The problem of collection, was, however, aggravated on several occasions during the year when the staff was depleted through absences due to sickness,and when it was found impossible to obtain any replacement labour.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract recruits to this type of employment and as a result, the refuse collecting service, which is vital to the welfare and well-being of the community, is faced with serious operational difficulties. Increased pay for the job, by itself, does help a great deal,but a Local Authority is severely handicapped when competing with the higher rates offered by industrial undertakings. This is evident in Clitheroe where, in these days of full employment, the pool of labour is hardly sufficient to meet the demand.

H ouseholders could help considerably to ease the collection problem by reducing the output of refuse at the source, that is in their own homes. . It would appear that some householders are determined to fill their dustbins on every occasion. Even during the warm seasons of the year, when the ash content of the dustbin is very small, we are still called upon to remove large quantities of garden refuse and other bulky materials which cannot be classed as "house refuse". Such material could be burnt or otherwise disposed of at the source and thus lighten the load and reduce vehicle running. The "full dustbin" is too often a misnomer and there would be far less ground for complaint if the household dustbin was properly used.

I would also draw attention to a further mis-use of the household bin. In these days of the "all-night-burning" firegrate, glowing ashes direct from the pan are emptied into the dustbin, causing fire which seriously damages the galvanised surface and shortens the life of the bin considerably. Such cases of damage to the dustbin- in these days an expensive article of equipment - are on the increase and householders could further assist the Authority by ensuring that the ash output is allowed to cool off before being deposited in the bin.

SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage material continued satisfactorily during 1955. The prices of waste paper and cardboard remained steady during the year and there was no disposal difficulty.

The following Table shows the total weight of salvage disposed of and the income derived therefrom during the year ended 31st. December, 1955 :-

Material	Weight.				Revenue.		
	T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	S	D.
Waste Paper.....	86.	7.	0.	0.	685	10	7
Cardboard.....	36.	1.	1.	0.	314	10	9
Baled Dest. Tins.....	31.	11.	1.	0.	112	16	0
Textiles.....	1.	0.	0.	16.	19	2	8
Ferrous Metal.....	1.	12.	0.	0.	4	0	0
Non-Ferrous Metal....		3.	1.	26.	3	5	0
Totals.....	156.	15.	0.	14.	1139	5	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Number of Premises visited...	2,986
Number of Nuisances discovered	412
Number of Nuisances abated...	408
No.of House Inspections under Housing Acts ...	242
Number of Re-inspections	76
Number of Other House Inspections..	126
Number of Bakehouse Inspections	42
Number of Factory Inspections	111
Number of Visits to Food Shops and Stalls ...	264
Number of Visits to Dairies..	12
Number of Visits to Schools and School Canteens.	19
Number of Visits to Slaughterhouses	352
Number of Visits to Ice Cream Shops	22
Number of Visits under Shops Act...	58
Number of Visits to Offices under P.H.Acts ...	4
Number of Visits to Infected Houses	15
Number of Visits re Works in Progress	37
Miscellaneous Visits re Complaints,etc... ...	346
Number of Houses disinfected.	6
Number of Houses disinfested.	3
Informal Notices to owners,etc.	354
Statutory Notices served...	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

No action was called for during the year 1955.

SHOPS.

Routine inspection, and special inspection as occasion required, continued during the year. It was not found necessary to issue any notices during the year.

FACTORIES.

There are at present 11 Non-Power and 128 Power-Factories, a total of 139 premises, on the Register and coming within the purview of the Factories Acts.

Inspection during the year proved that the standard generally was satisfactory, but it was found necessary to issue notices in five cases - two for want of cleanliness of walls, etc., and three for unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation.

SCHOOLS.

The general sanitary condition of the Schools in the town is considered satisfactory.

During the year the large playground at one of the Junior Schools was completely resurfaced. As mentioned previously, a scheme for the erection of a sanitary annexe at another school was under consideration at the end of the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The close pebble-dash treatment of the walls of two further Conveniences was carried out during 1955. This method of treatment is most effective in eliminating the offensive and indecent writings and drawings previously in evidence in all the Public Conveniences.

There is need for further conveniences in several districts of the town and particularly for one which is centrally situated in which facilities for washing, etc. can be provided.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no OFFENSIVE TRADES established in the Borough area.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year, three premises were found to be infested with vermin and the necessary action was taken for their disinfestation.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The possible sources of atmospheric pollution in Clitheroe are a Cement Works, a Chemical Works, a large Stone-crushing Plant, and a Cupola Furnace, where emissions of dust and fumes constitute the problem, and the large chimney stacks which emit black smoke.

There has been a distinct improvement regarding nuisance from the emission of chemical fumes and dust from local Works. For several years past, owners of these Works have been very co-operative and at times, have gone to considerable expense in an effort to prevent atmospheric pollution.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE
BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Health Department employs a full-time Operator on Rodent Control, etc. The town is divided into eight sections and regular tours of inspection of premises and land are made within these sections, and treatments carried out where necessary. One test baiting and two maintenance treatments of the town's sewers were carried out during the year. Several refuse tips and other premises were treated at intervals during the year on behalf of the Bowland Rural District Council.

Householders and occupiers of industrial premises now co-operate well with the Department by giving prompt notice of infestation by rats or mice.

The following Table gives a summary of the work done during the year under review :-

Number of Inspections of Premises	Number of Premises found to be Infested.	Number of Treatments carried out.	Estimated Kill of Rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of Service.
2,381	85	107	1,021 (Actual bodies found- 183)	15,774 (Actual bodies found- 3,969)

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Two sets of premises are registered in accordance with this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Under this Act one Licence was issued during the year. Conditions on the premises of the Firm concerned were quite satisfactory.

DEALERS IN OLD METAL, ETC.

In accordance with Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (amendment) Act, 1907, six dealers are registered with the Health Department. In this matter the Department's Officials co-operate with the Police Authority when necessary.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. The building of new houses to serve applicants still on the Council's Waiting List.

2. The abolition of sub-standard housing accommodation considered unfit for human habitation, and the provision of new housing for displaced persons.

3. The re-conditioning of other properties in the town.

4. The conversion to the freshwater system of the remaining pail closets and waste-water closets.

5. The provision of additional Public Conveniences, including one which is centrally situated, and equipped with facilities for washing. etc.

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2. HOUSING.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the Borough is good but there are several areas of outworn property which call for clearance.

The proposals for dealing with these properties over a period of 15 years were drawn up by the Borough Engineer and myself and submitted to the Council early in the year and later forwarded to the Ministry in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Acts of 1936 and 1954. Following suggestions from the Ministry as to the acceleration of our Programme, the list of properties was revised and was being considered further at the end of the year.

Under this revised scheme of clearance, some 145 houses are to be dealt with under Section 25 and a further 6 under Section 11 of the Housing Act, in the first FIVE YEARS. A further 128 houses are to be included in the 5-10 years group, giving a total of 279 houses to be cleared during the next 10 years. Our Scheme is subject to the approval of the Ministry and such approval is expected early in 1956.

During the year under review, there was still a demand for new houses to satisfy applicants on the Council's Waiting List, though this has been considerably reduced. Further new building will be required to meet the needs of displaced persons under the Clearance Schemes.

Fourteen bungalows on the Henthorn Site No.6 and six houses on the Littlemoor Site No.1 were completed during 1955. A further 52 houses on the latter site and 2 houses at Siddows were under construction at the end of the year.

Early in 1956, it is proposed to erect 12 bungalows on the Standen Road Site and possibly a further 16 houses on the Littlemoor Site No. 1. It is suggested that these latter houses might be used for rehousing persons from Clearance Areas.

OVERCROWDING in the Borough area is rather difficult to assess unless a proper Survey is undertaken, but it is considered that it is not of a dimension which is regarded as serious.

Under the Housing Acts 1949 & 1954, 47 IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES (in respect of 48 houses) were submitted to the Local Authority by private individuals. Of these schemes, 35 were approved and GRANTS were made, the remaining 12 schemes not being considered to be in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.

At the end of the year. 15 of the schemes have been satisfactorily completed and "Certificates of Completion" had been issued. In the remaining 20 schemes the works of improvement were well advanced of the end of the year.

A fact worthy of note in connection with these Improvement Grant Schemes is that the majority of applicants are owner-occupiers. Only a very small fraction of the owners who let their properties applied for grants. There are probably many reasons for this lack of interest on the part of landlords but the main reason is possibly due to the fact that any property has to be in a good state of repair before it can be considered for an Improvement Grant. The owner may thus be called upon to expend considerable monies for repairs in addition to his proportion of the cost of the improvement work which is one half if the full grant is made by the Authority, and even more in some cases.

The total expenditure when weighed against the permitted rent increase on completion is not considered to be a good financial proposition and the landlord has apparently second thoughts in the matter. It is considered in some circles that amendment of the existing legislation is required if it is to serve the purpose originally intended.

The giving of Grants by Local Authorities is one way of ensuring that the older properties which are structurally sound are brought up to modern standards and provide better living conditions for many people at far less cost than the building of new houses, and if greater use had been made of the improvement provisions, placed on the Statute Book in 1949, the general standard of existing housing accommodation would be farhigher than at the present time, and many more people would be enjoying modern amenities.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of Houses, Flats and Bungalows erected during the year...	26
Number of Houses inspected for housing defects..	157
No.of Houses found to be unfit for habitation...	102
No.of other houses found not to be in all respects fir for habitation...	23
No.of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by L.A.or Officers...	18
No..of houses against which statutory action was taken with a view to closure.....	1
Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved.....	-

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Local Authority is responsible for milk distribution and the supervision of dairymen only, the inspection of farms, cowsheds, etc., being the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Three sets of premises in the Borough are registered as Dairies. Routine inspections of these premises proved them to be satisfactorily maintained.

Five Dealers' Licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and one for the sale of "Pasteurised" Milk were issued during the year

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no Private Slaughterhouses in the Borough and all slaughtering is carried out at the Authority's Abattoir. A 100% inspection service of meat carcases is maintained by the Council's Inspectors.

The disposal of condemned meat and offals is under the control of the Local Authority.

Following the closure of a Private Slaughterhouse in the early part of the year, Compensation was paid to the owner.

The following Shows the amount of food condemned and removed from the food supply during the year ended 31st. December, 1955 :-

BEEF.

Carcase parts...	343 lbs.	Ox Liver....	2,050 lbs.
Bruised Meat....	11 lbs.	1 Heart.....	4 lbs.
Frozen Meat.....	50 lbs.	1 Tongue....	3 lbs.
6 Heads &Tongues	146 lbs.	Fat.....	7 lbs.
15 Lites,3 Melts.	148 lbs.	VEAL	10 lbs.

MUTTON.

Carcase parts...	22 lbs.		
Sheep Livers....	471 lbs.	1 Head & Lungs.	2 lbs.

PORK.

4 Carcases.....	414 lbs.	19 Plucks...	112 lbs.
4 Hearts & Lungs.	11 lbs.	9 Lungs....	19 lbs.
20 Heads.....	187 lbs.	Pig Liver...	20 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Canned Corned Beef... 60 lbs.
Canned Ham..... 10 lbs.
Canned Tongue..... 6 lbs.

6 tins Canned Meat. 2 tins Canned Fish.
19 tins Canned Milk. 17 tins Canned Vegetables
54 tins Fruit (mixed). 6 jars Salad Cream.
334 jars Sandwich Spread. 131 jars Mayonnaise.
42 jars Tomato Chutney. 46 jars Tomato Ketchup.
72 jars Horseradish Sauce. 9lbs. Fish Browning.
100 lbs. Malted Meal.

Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 16 premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled, or preserved meat foods intended for sale. Fifty-three premises are also registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

Seven Hawkers of food and their premises are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers)Act, 1951.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are in force in the Borough, and copies are supplied to the occupiers of food shops and stalls.

Notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops are still displayed in a large majority of these premises. These notices are generally appreciated by the traders and customers alike.

Routine inspections, and special inspections as called for, are carried out in respect of food shops and stalls, and food preparing premises generally.

The long-awaited Food Hygiene Regulations are to come into operation in 1956. The application of these regulations will give the food trades, local authorities, and their officials plenty to do and think about and there is no doubt that they give extended powers which must be taken seriously. Many of the food traders have already become alive to the importance of hygienic methods of food production and food handling and have made commendable effort to improve standards. Other traders who have been prone to lag behind and to be somewhat apathetic must now realise that slip-shod methods can no longer be tolerated, and that the adoption of higher standards of hygiene and cleanliness in food production and handling is vital to the Public Health and can do much towards the elimination of food-borne disease.

The new Regulations have been well publicised already in trade journals and the public press so that traders and householders have some ideas concerning their content.

In this connection, housewives, who are the customers of the food shops, can do much to help the public official,and further their own interest and that of the general public , by demanding a high standard of cleanliness in the shops they visit and by calling the attention of the trader or his assistant to any practices which tend to lower the standard which is desired.

Many thoughtless habits and practices which in the past have called for a personal reprimand may possibly in the future mean an appearance in Court. The customer most often is the one who is made aware of such habits and practices and a complaint on the spot can most effectively contribute towards the education of the food handler and, incidentally, can result in the saving of time and trouble for many people concerned in this vital task of ensuring a clean food supply for all.

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MEAT CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

	Cattle including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed...	539	26	5,054	1,259
Number inspected	539	26	5,054	1,259
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis. :-				
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil.	-	-	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	286	-	331	19
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other then T.B. and Cysticerci...	53%	-	6.5%	1.8%
Tuberculosis only :-				
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	-	-	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	1	-	25
Percentage affected... .	4%	3.8%	-	2%
Cysticercosis :-				
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration...	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil.	-	-	-